

MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **282-2016**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 30, 2016

SUBJECT: **Update on Homeless Services and Funding Received from the Homeless Trust**

The purpose of this LTC is to update the Mayor and City Commission on homeless outreach services and the funding received from the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust (Trust).

The City's Homeless Outreach Team continues expanding its service capacity. As a reminder, the City operates the sole municipal walk-in center for homeless services in Miami-Dade County. The following is the Office's service numbers for last year as well as thus far this fiscal year:

Calendar Year 2015		FY 15/16 ¹	
Service/Activity	Number	Service/Activity	Number
Census Count (January 2015)	193	Census Count (January 2016)	156
Client Contacts (Office & Street)	2,094	Client Contacts (Office & Street)	3,334
Homeless Clients (unduplicated)	1,214	Homeless Clients (unduplicated)	1,033

¹ Data for FY 15/16 is from October 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016

Despite the very high street population, our City is very effective in sheltering those who want help as well as obtaining permanent housing for those who follow their care plan as demonstrated by the service data:

Calendar Year 2015		FY 15/16	
Service/Activity	Number	Service/Activity	Number
Client Relocations	78	Client Relocations	55
Shelter Placements	540	Shelter Placements	548
Clients Transitioned to Permanent Housing	91	Clients Transitioned to Permanent Housing	43
Permanent Homeless Reduction Rate ²	47%	Permanent Homeless Reduction Rate	28%

² Percentage of permanent transitions as compared to official homeless count

The City purchases 52 emergency shelter beds from the following providers:

- Camillus House (single men)
- Lotus House (women and children)
- Miami Rescue Mission (single men)
- The Salvation Army (women, men and families with children)

The City also has placement privileges for up to 55 additional beds provided by the Trust. The number of beds available fluctuates depending on their use by the City of Miami. As a member of the Miami-Dade County Continuum of Care, the City is one of two outreach teams for the County; the City of Miami is the other outreach team. A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals and is a requirement for jurisdictions to receive federal funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Annually, the Trust purchases 1,172 beds countywide (which includes those assigned to our City). For comparative purposes, while the City purchased 62 beds to handle a homeless census of 156 homeless (1 bed to 2.52 homeless persons in census), the Trust purchased 1,117 beds to manage a homeless census of 826 homeless persons for Miami-Dade County (or 1 bed to 0.74 homeless persons in census). While this ratio would suggest that there is an excess of emergency shelter beds, in actuality, there is a waitlist for non-family beds in the County.

In terms of funding, the Trust provided the City the following funding this fiscal year:

Outreach Services	\$ 63,079
HMIS Data Entry	\$ 12,333
ID Document Replacement	\$ 25,000
Hotel Placement for Families ²	\$ 10,000
TOTAL TRUST FUNDS	\$110,412

2 – Traditionally, the City does not fully draw these funds.

The City leverages Trust funds with \$1,312,000 from the General Fund. Trust funding accounts for 7.7 percent of the Office's standard operating budget. As a reminder, our office provides the following services (some of which are unavailable elsewhere in our County):

- Emergency shelter services
- Family Reunification (relocation services to contiguous 48 states)
- Identification Document Replacement (including immigration documents)
- Short-Term Employment (via Jewish Community Services and HOPE in Miami-Dade, Inc.)
- Care Coordination (replaces traditional case management)

The Office has expanded its engagement efforts to include the employment of homeless clients in shelter as outreach workers joining our Team in the field. The City utilizes Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to contract HOPE in Miami-Dade, Inc. to screen and employ homeless clients referred by the City at a cost of \$41,434. The program, which launched April 2016, has proven very effective resulting in the following in only two months:

Performance Data for Homeless Employment Program		#
Number of Homeless Clients Employed Through the Program ³		8
# of Homeless Engaged by the Homeless Employment Program (Unduplicated)		207
# of Clients Engaged by the Homeless Employment Program Who Accepted Shelter		20
# of Clients Engaged by the Homeless Employment Program Who Accepted Other Services		30

3 Two of the eight employed clients found full-time employment before completing the program.

Given the concerns raised by many in the community regarding this issue, I have asked Maria Ruiz to reach out to you for one-on-one meetings.

Should you have any questions, please contact me.



JLM/KGB/MLR

c: Kathie G. Brooks, Assistant City Manager
Maria L Ruiz, Department Director